

The John Hopping House
N.E. Corner Ridgedale Avenue and Park Street
Florham Park, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-692

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14-FLORP
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The John Hopping House
N.E. Corner Ridgedale Avenue and Park Street
Florham Park, Morris County, New Jersey

Owners (and occupants): Mr. and Mrs. Berten E. Ely

Date of Erection: In or before 1769, enlarged and
rebuilt about 1830

Architect: Unknown

Builder: (1) John Hopping and (2) James Flavel Hopping
(owner 1827-1845)

Present Condition: Original, well maintained

Number of Stories: Two and one-half, over cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - timber frame, clapboarded

Interior walls - lath and plaster on frame
studding

Chimneys - brick, built into inside of gable
end walls

Roof - gable, wood shingled

Historical Data:

The identification of this farmhouse as above
is a matter of deduction from the evidence derived from
the public records of property by search of title therein,
reported as follows.

On 27 June 1769, the Surveyors of the Highways
for Hanover Township, Morris County, made their return
and agreement to lay out a road as requested by Ephraim
Price, Ebenezer Sayre and others, "Beginning at the
King's Highway, between the houses of John Hopping and
Ebenezer Sayre, thence north 43 degrees west 75 links
to the middle of the well" and extending thence further
northwest some 4230 feet.^(a) The Kings Highway mentioned

(a) Morris County Road Book A, p. 62

has become Ridgedale Avenue (County Road No. 14) and the road thus plotted, the Hammock Road (Park Street) in the modern Borough of Florham Park. The house here considered, standing at the northwest corner of their intersection, is obviously the house of John Hopping mentioned above in 1769.

This John Hopping of Hanover Township, and his wife Ann, mortgaged these premises on 22 December 1773 describing it as a 60 acre tract bounded south-east by the lands of David Richards and of Ephraim Price and the highway, and southwest by the lane to Anthony Hollingshead's, and as "being the lot of land on which John Hopping now lives." (b)

Likewise, on 22 October 1786, said John Hopping and wife Ann mortgaged a 20 acre tract (evidently then remaining from the 60 acre one above mentioned) describing it as bounded southwest by the lane leading to the Hammock, northwest by Silas Hopping (c), Samuel Hopping and by other land of mortgagor, northeast by David Bedford and Annanias Halsey, and southeast by Isaac Halsey, one Price, and the Highway. (d) Probate upon the estate of this John Hopping does not appear on record in the registers of Morris County, so that the disposition of his lands after his death has not been determined, but this tract appears in 1826 in possession of one John Hopping, supposedly his son, as follows.

(b) Morris County Mortgage Book B, p. 257.

(c) The house of this Silas Hopping on Park Street, Florham Park, next northwest of the house here considered, has been surveyed as NJ-687.

(d) Morris County mortgages Book C, p. 89.

In a report of the division of the real estate of John Hopping^(e), deceased intestate, dated 6 March 1826, his $7\frac{1}{2}$ acre "Homestead lot" in Chatham Township*, bounded southeast by the road from Bottle Hill (Madison) to Hanover, northeast by the Newark and Morris Turnpike road, southwest by the old Hammock Road and northwest by the land of Charles Matthews (formerly Silas Hopping's), was divided, a $3\frac{1}{2}$ acre plot thereof fronting on the first named road and extending northwest along the third to the Matthews property, on which plot was the dwelling house, was allotted to (his sons) Charles and Henry Hopping equally, being obviously the house here considered. Likewise, a 2 acre "Barn Lot" adjacent on the northeast line thereof and fronting on the first and second named roads, was allotted to a son Luther Hopping, the 2.7 acre lot next adjacent northeast to a son Timothy Hopping, a $5\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot across the turnpike to a son William Hopping, and 2 acre one adjacent on the east line thereof to a sixth son, Samuel Hopping. Five other tracts in Chatham Township, comprising some 40 acres, and one of 15 acres in Pequannock, were also divided among these sons and among the three daughters, Susan wife of John Munson, Elizabeth Hopping and Jerusha wife of Samuel R. Chadwick.

(e) John Hopping, 1750-1823, minute man from Morris County, N.J., in the Revolutionary War, born in Elizabeth, N.J., died in Hanover, Morris Co., N.J., married Elizabeth Luker. (D.A.R. Lineage Book 53, p. 409). Admin. on estate of John Hopping decd. granted 26 July 1825 to William and Henry Hopping (Morris Co. Admin. Bk. A, 303). Ezekiel, John, Samuel and Silas Hopping, all of Morris County, are of record as privates in the County Militia or State Troops (W.S. Stryker, Officer and Men of N.J. in the Rev. War, p. 635).

* Chatham Twp. created from Morris and Hanover Twsp. 1806.

Charles Hopping(f) abovenamed and wife Mary G. of Hanover Township conveyed to (his brother) Henry Hopping(g) of Chatham Township, by deed of 18 March 1826, the half share in their father's house lot in the latter place which had been awarded to them in the division of his real estate as above described, and Henry in turn, with wife Abigail, conveyed the whole $3\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot to (his son) James F. Hopping of same place by deed of 31 March 1827 in consideration of \$500. Previously, by deed of 21 March, Samuel Hopping of New York City, and wife Jane, had sold the adjacent 2 acre "Barn Lot" to said James F.

By deed of 8 June 1845, the two administrators of the estate of James F. Hopping deceased, late of Chatham Township, Morris County conveyed to his widow Phebe W. Hopping(h) the house lot and the barn lot comprising some $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres which he had acquired in 1827 as abovesaid and occupied thereafter until his death. Similarly, by deed of 28 October 1871, Isaac Van Cleef and wife Harriet L. and James D. Hopping and wife Hannah, the second and third named being children of said Phebe W. Hopping deceased, late of Chatham Township, conveyed the same $5\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot to Theodore A. Hopping of same place, and he in turn passed it on 1st March 1880

(f) Charles Hopping, 1795-1877, son of John and Elizabeth (Luker) Hopping of Afton (Florham Park), a blacksmith and hotel-keeper in the village of Hanover. The "Halfway House" there, of which he became owner in 1824, has been surveyed as NJ-676.

(g) Henry Hopping, farmer, d. 11 Jan. 1845 in 67th yr., gravestone in Hanover Presb. Chyd.; mar. Abigail Miller who d. 15 Oct. 1849 in 70th yr., and had issue, all bapt. Hanover Ch. 16 Sept. 1810 viz. Lucetta Amanda, James Flavel, George Miller and Henry Luker, also Melinda Lavinia bp. 31 May 1812, Charles Lambert bp. 22 June 1817, and Joseph Albert bp. 6 Aug. 1820.

(h) The map of Chatham Twp. plate in Beer's Atlas of Morris County, 1868, shows the house here considered, marked Mrs. P. W. Hopping, and one next north of it, marked T. A. Hopping.

to Julia S. Pierson of Hanover. She conveyed it on 31 December next following to Harriet L., wife of said Theodore A. Hopping. She died intestate on 25 March 1898, leaving as heirs her said husband who died on 29 November 1899, a daughter Clara Hopping who died unmarried 12 December in same year, and Theodore Hopping, Louise B. and Ida Hopping, as is recited in a deed of 8 January 1906 by which said Theodore Hopping of Deming, Luna County, New Mexico, and wife Mary E., conveyed to the last named two sisters his third interest in the homestead. From these the property was conveyed on 25 May 1912 to Richard D. Morse of Roseland, Morris County, and from him on 1st April 1925, being then of Florham Park and supposedly occupying the house, to Berten E. Ely and wife, of Morristown, who remain as owners and occupants at the time of our survey thereof in February 1941.

Reference:

Search of title in land and probate records of Morris County by James Hanlon, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 24 February 1941

Leuris D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer